

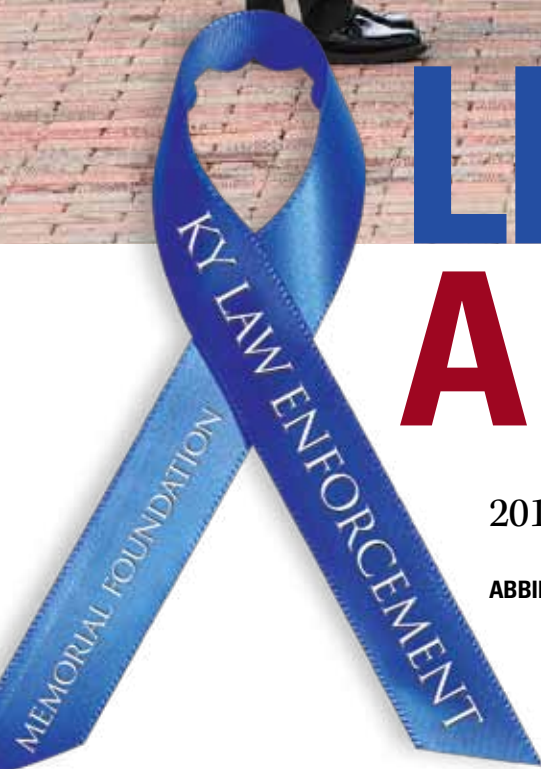
Department of Criminal Justice Training recruits pop the Kentucky state flag as they unveil the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument at the beginning of the ceremony.

PHOTO BY TRANG BASEHEART

# LEAVING A LEGACY

2013 Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Department of Criminal Justice Training recruits stand at attention prior to the 21 gun salute, honoring Kentucky's fallen officers.

PHOTO BY TRANG BASEHEART

Heavy clouds looming overhead held back their tears, as hundreds gathered at the 14th annual Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony on May 7 to honor the sacrifice of eight Kentucky law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to the commonwealth.

"The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument now contains 509 names," Gov. Steve Beshear announced to those attending. "Behind those 509 names are 509 stories of heroic action, 509 examples of duty and courage that inspire all who wear the badge.

"I can assure you that we in Kentucky do not take you or your commitment for granted," he reminded the uniformed officers present at the ceremony.

Two Kentucky officers were killed in the line of duty in 2012. Hodgenville Police Department Officer Mark A. Taulbee, who was killed in a vehicle pursuit Sept. 16, 2012, and Marion County Sheriff's Office Deputy Anthony Rakes, who was shot to death during a traffic stop Nov. 14, 2012, were honored as their loved ones received flags memorializing their lives and sacrifice.

"It is no small decision to choose this career and go out in the world each day to face violence, abuse, hatred, evil, greed and fear in pursuit of your duty," Beshear said. "But remember, you do not stand alone. And that's really what this memorial represents. It reminds us that throughout history, men and women in the Bluegrass State have stood strong together to protect the public good."

The widow of fallen Lexington Division of Police Officer Bryan Durman also addressed the assembled families and friends.

"Through this tragic event and the death of my husband I have gained peace," she said. "Though it is not the peace I once knew, it is a new sort of normal. And I have found purpose."

Brandy Durman spearheaded legislation which toughens the punishment for those responsible for the deaths of peace officers and firefighters.

"When Braydon (her son) asked me if the bad man who hurt his daddy would be in jail forever, I said, 'Yes.' Little did I know this was a lie," she said. "He will be eligible for parole next year, only four years after my husband lost his life in the line of duty. He only has to serve 20 percent of his original sentence before he will be eligible to be back on the streets again. That's when I drafted a letter to Sen. Alice Kerr."

The Bryan Durman Act was ceremonially signed on April 29, the third anniversary of Bryan Durman's death.

"Everyone wanted to be on board to protect those folks that protect us every day, to do something to give their families a little bit of peace," Durman said.

Bryan Durman's name was added to the monument in 2011.

For more on the Bryan Durman Act, see p. 74. 

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# 2012 *Historical Additions*

**Deputy Marshal Releigh Killion**, U.S. Marshal's Office  
End of watch: May 24, 1884

**Chief Tom Martin**, Stanford Police Department  
End of watch: May 16, 1931

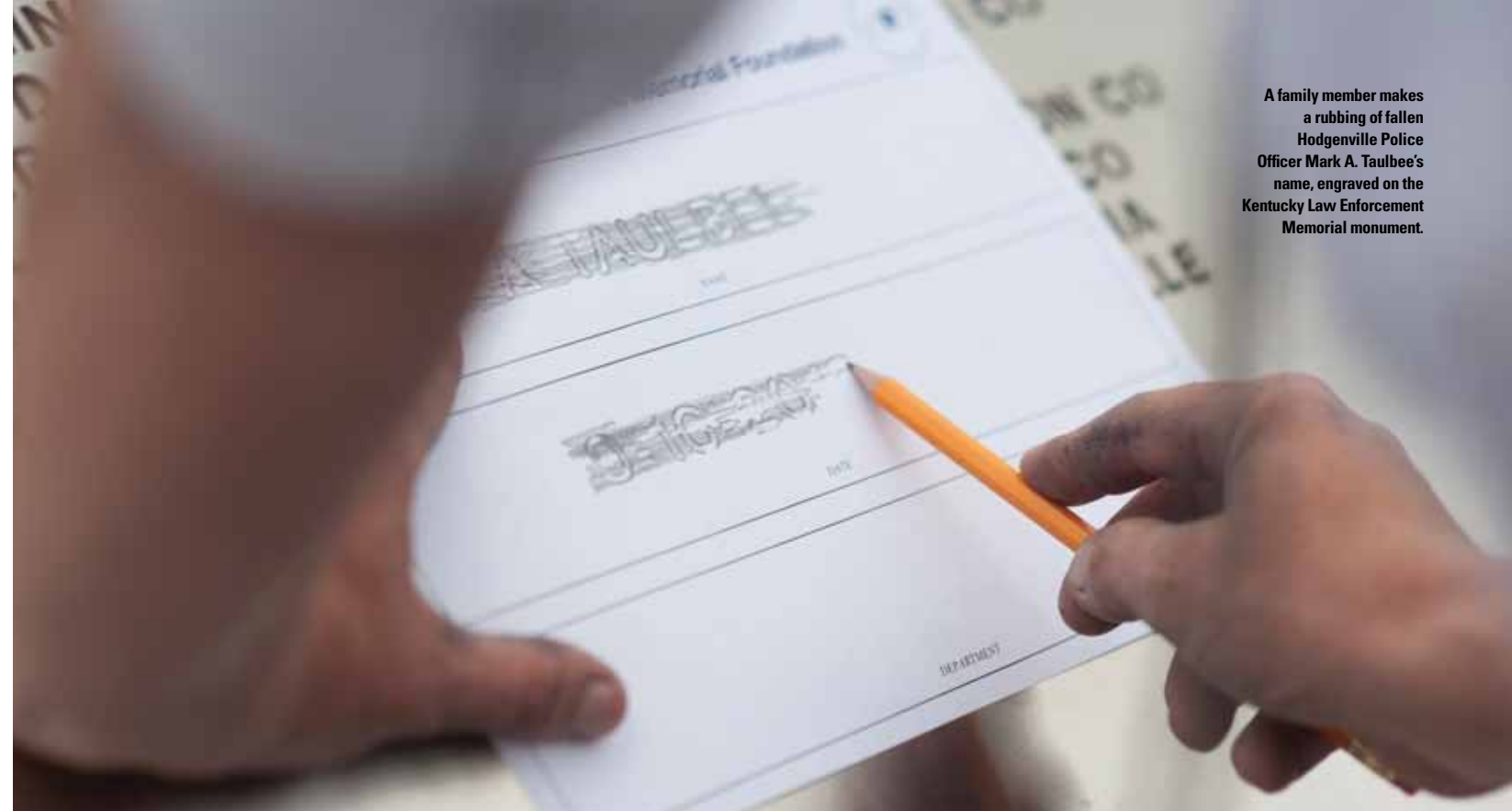
**Deputy Thee Madden**, Knott County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: March 10, 1933

**Captain Vernon Snellen**, Kentucky Highway Patrol  
End of watch: Feb. 20, 1937

**Deputy Sheriff Bill Baker**, Perry County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: March 11, 1950

**Deputy Sheriff George Puckett**, Perry County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: April 26, 1950

A family member makes a rubbing of fallen Hodgenville Police Officer Mark A. Taulbee's name, engraved on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument.



Honor • Integrity • Sacrifice • Hope • Responsibility • Legacy • Honor • Integrity • Sacrifice • Hope • Responsibility • Legacy • Honor • Integrity • Sacrifice • Hope • Responsibility • Legacy • Honor • Integrity

Regina Ewing receives a flag in memory of her brother, fallen Marion County Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Rakes. The flag was presented by Basic Training Class No. 445 recruit, Shannon Hall of the Bardstown Police Department.



The Boone County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presented the flags during the ceremony.



Gov. Steve Beshear greets family members, offering words of condolences after the law enforcement memorial ceremony. Gov. Beshear served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH THOMAS